

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Chapman for the courtesy of a very helpful telephone interview on July 26, 2007 to discuss the June 21, 2007 Office Action and, in particular, the patentability of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,641,815 to Fehlmann, U.S. Patent No. 5,588,977 to Pavlov et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,821,184 to Haines et al.

As the result of the interview, it was agreed that if Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer based on prior U.S. Patent No. 6,964,809 B2, the Examiner will allow the pending claims in the subject application on the basis of this terminal disclaimer and the Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 previously submitted by one of the inventors of the subject application, Pedro M. Buarque de Macedo, on March 26, 2007. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit herewith a terminal disclaimer based on U.S. Patent No. 6,964,809 B2.

Upon entry of this Amendment After Final, Claims 63-115 will be pending in the present application. No amendment has been made to any of the pending claims in response to the June 21, 2007 Office Action.

During the July 26, 2007 telephone interview, the Examiner requested that U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/076,971 filed by the same applicants, which was cited and incorporated by reference by the present application, be identified by the issued patent number, U.S. Patent No. 6,964,809 B2. By this Amendment After Final, paragraph [0027] of the specification has been amended accordingly.

Appl. No. 10/625,071
Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2007
Reply dated July 26, 2007


In view of the enclosed terminal disclaimer, previously submitted Declaration by the co-inventor, and foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely Notice of Allowance with respect to all of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Included herewith are (1) a Transmittal Form (Form PTO/SB/21), (2) a Terminal Disclaimer To Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over a "Prior" Patent (Form PTO/SB/26), and (3) a check in the amount of \$65.00 to cover the fee for filing the terminal disclaimer for a small entity. No extensions of time or additional fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Amendment After Final and the terminal disclaimer. However, authorization is given hereby to charge Deposit Account No. 01-1785 for any deficiency in fees necessary to preserve the pendency of the subject application, or to credit the same in case of overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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